

I did vote for was LB 595, the reason being I received letters from smokers telling me that they would be willing to...to have an additional two cents a pack to put into cancer research, so it was a specific tax for a specific group of people. I, myself as an ex-smoker, asked myself would I be willing to do the same? And I would, I would be willing to do that, so I went ahead and voted for that tax. I did not, however vote for LB 22. It is a tax. It's a tax that we're taxing a certain group of people. I think everybody realized that when they voted for it. And if we're going to raise eyebrows, their eyebrows are going to be raised for a long time coming, it sounds like, from the federal government wanting to use this "sin tax" also as a tax base. We've got to start considering what we're doing here on these kind of taxes, "sin taxes". I, jokingly, just said that I was going to phase this in to give them time to quit smoking. I'm an ex-smoker. It's very difficult to do and I know that so I don't say it lightly. But if we're going to raise taxes and the federal government is going to raise taxes on cigarettes, we are going to have people quitting smoking and that is a good thing but it's also an unstable tax base. So if we're going to pass all this spending through, let's hope that it only lasts as long as the people who are smoking or as long as it happens that they keep smoking till they quit. This isn't a stable tax base. I don't agree with it. I don't want to reconsider 22.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Lindsay, a question, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay, would you respond, please.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I can't think of any questions, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: You mentioned you...we're going to raise the ire of the taxpayer. Now who are you talking about? Whose ire...go ahead, answer that, would you, please, if you have an answer.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Actually, I said eyebrows, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Oh.

SENATOR LINDSAY: But what I was referring to was when you